

# Sustaining Maryland Fisheries - 2012 Commercial License Bill

## What will the bill accomplish?

### REVENUE

- Allow billing of waterman for use of hailing system and harvest tags.
- Submit a report by October 1, 2012 that reviews the existing laws, regulations, fees, and processes associated with commercial fishing licenses in the State and considers:
  - (1) the costs of managing specific commercial fisheries;
  - (2) the structure of the commercial license system and associated fees and surcharges
  - (3) accountability of licensees; and
  - (4) obtaining a commercial license revenue that covers a fair and equitable portion of the management and enforcement costs of the commercial fisheries.

### EFFICIENCY AND FLEXIBILITY

- Allows the sale of a license or authorization without business assets.
- Increases the potential recipients of a family transfer of a license.
- Establish a flat \$50 fee for all license transfers. Currently, an applicant of most license transfers has to pay the license fee again. This will reduce the cost to watermen on most license transfers and simplify the administrative transfer process.
- Eliminates the minimum number of days (30) and maximum number of days (90) required for a temporary transfer.
- Allows for transfers of 600 and 900 crab pot authorizations separate from the tidal fish license.
- Reduces the time period from 3 to 2 years before a person holding a license can complete a business license.
- Removes the ability to convert multiple authorizations to an unlimited TFL, but provides for the conversion of an unlimited TFL to its component authorizations.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- Current language allows an indefinite number of temporary transfers and this makes it difficult to track the licensee. In 2010, commercial licenses were temporarily transferred 747 times. The bill allows only one temporary transfer of an authorization per license year.
- Currently a license may be assigned to a vessel and anyone can commercially harvest on that vessel with no accounting to Fisheries Service. The bill does not allow a license to be assigned to a vessel.



For more information contact: Thomas O'Connell  
Director, Fisheries Service 410.260.8281